LAKE NIPIGON PROVINCIAL PARK

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources

September 1987

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Ministry of Natural Resources
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Ontario

September 1, 1987

I am pleased to offer this Preliminary Management Plan for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park which, when approved, will guide the management and development of this park for the next twenty years. The plan reflects this Ministry's intent to protect the natural and cultural features contained in the park area, and to develop high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for both residents and visitors to Ontario.

Public participation is now being sought in order to encourage concerned citizens to take part in the planning process and to provide valuable input into those planning decisions. Public notification of this planning process for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park appeared in local newspapers and was mailed to interested parties. Information sessions for this plan will be held in conjunction with the public review of the Lake Nipigon Integrated Resource Management Plan and the Nipigon District Fisheries Management Plan. These sessions will be in Nipigon, Beardmore and MacDiarmid.

It is anticipated that the approved Management Plan for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park will be in place by December 31, 1987. For further information please contact:

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We look forward to your participation.

Art Currie
Art Currie
District Manager
Nipigon District

LAKE NIPIGON PROVINCIAL PARK

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is located on Highway 11, 60 km north of Nipigon and 100 km southwest of Geraldton in Kilkenny Township. It is administered by the Nipigon District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The Parks' regional setting and neighbouring provincial parks are illustrated in Figure 1.

The Park area is 1,458 hectares. Natural features include the flat-topped diabase hills of the Nipigon Palisades, Central Boreal Forest, and several earth and life science features that warrant protection. It is representative of Site Region 3W (Hills, 1979).

Developed in 1960 as Blacksand Provincial Park (O.Reg 204/60), Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is one of few access points to Lake Nipigon and is located on the southeast shore.

Park use has always been below capacity. Contributing to this is the park's location - it is less than a days drive from provincial parks to the east and west and is close to Poplar Point Municipal park in Beardmore. In addition, tourist traffic on Hwy 11 is less than on Hwy 17.

Presently, use of the park is limited to day-use and car camping opportunities. Future developments will emphasize provision of backcountry hiking opportunities. These will provide visitors increased opportunities for interaction with the natural environment. Also, several new replacement facilities are proposed for the park, contingent on the availability of funding.

The parks' greatest appeal, will likely continue to be it's outstanding scenic value and the peace and quiet it offers visitors as part of a quality recreational experience.

The management policies contained in this 20-year plan will provide direction for the orderly development of the park and guide its management into the next century.

1.1 Summary of Significant Issues

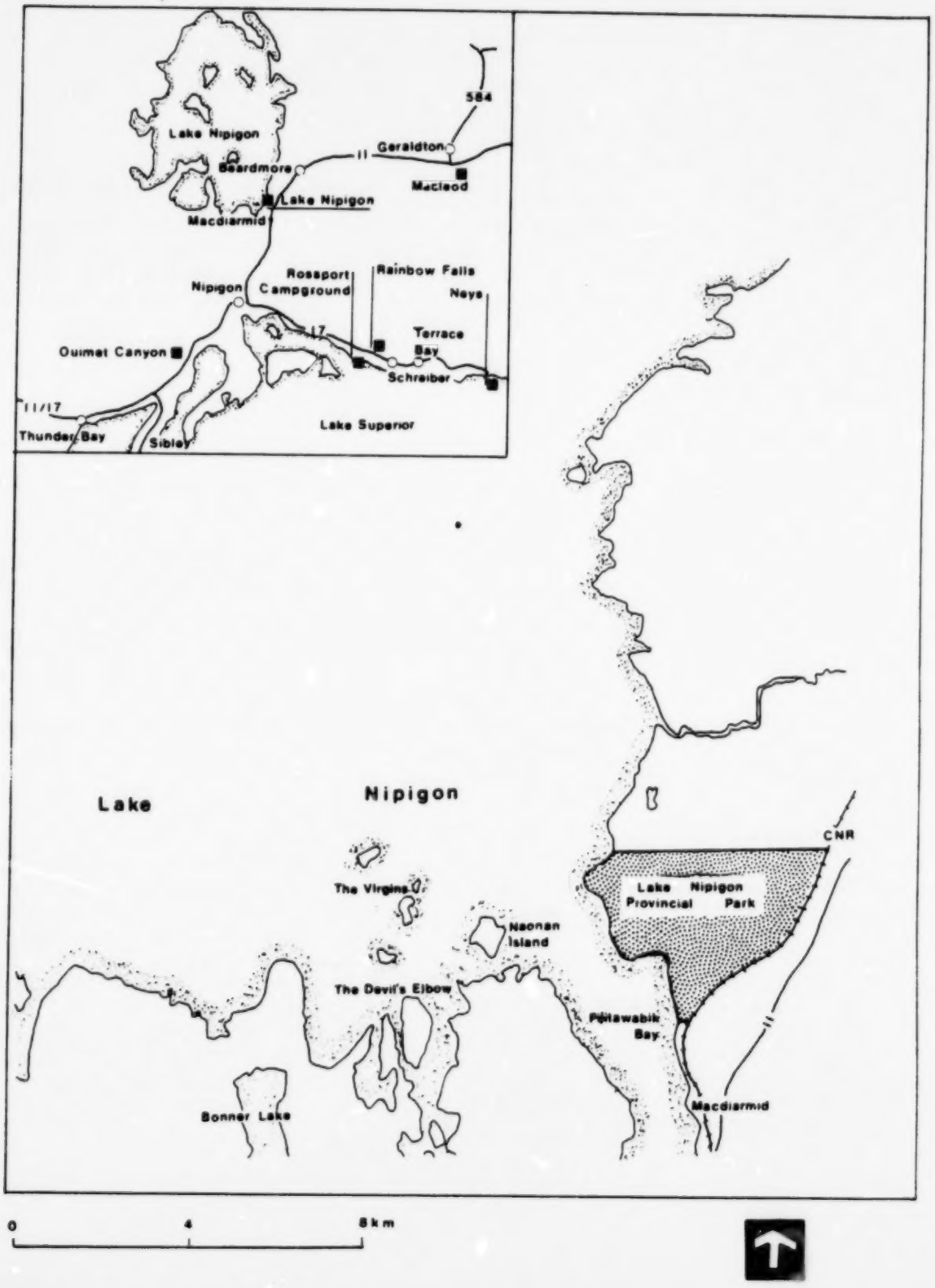
Several issues concerning Lake Nipigon Provincial Park have arisen over the past few years and during the preparation of this plan. A summary of these issues is as follows:

1.1.1 Park Classification

The classification of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park as a Natural Environment park was confirmed through the review and approval of the Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines (1983). In preparing this plan, the option of reclassifying the park as a Recreation Class park was considered. This was seen to be more in line with the role the park has played since being regulated.

Upon evaluation, the Natural Environment classification was reaffirmed based on the protection of representative landscapes afforded by the park. The plan addresses the continued recreational use of the developed portion of the park, and directs management effort to realize the resource potential in the remaining park area, in keeping with policy direction for Natural Environment class parks.

Regional Setting



Park expansion to the north, is a related issue, examined in the options stage of the planning process. This increase in park size would serve to incorporate additional areas of earth and life science significance and increase the opportunities for backcountry recreation. It would also provide a natural boundary for the park that encompasses landscape units.

After careful consideration the present park size and boundary configuration have been deemed to be adequate to satisfy the goal and objectives for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

The earth and life science resources contained in the rugged landscape to the north of the park will remain Crown land. These values do not appear to be threatened now or in the foreseeable future.

1.1.2 Native Issues

It is the intent of the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage the park in the public interest, with proper recognition of the historic traditional use of the Sand Point area by Indian people, and fair and equitable treatment in this plan of the concerns and desires expressed by the native peoples of the Rocky Bay Indian Reserve.

This plan addresses past and present operational problems experienced in the park and directs that the Rocky Bay Indian Band be:

- encouraged to participate in the planning process;
- consulted on a continuing basis to resolve issues related to park use by native persons;
- provided with opportunities for employment and volunteer assistance with park programs, especially in the area of visitor services and the interpretation of native culture and history.

The aim in managing the park will be to foster mutual cooperation with the local native peoples, while providing recreational opportunities for residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province, and protecting park values.

1.1.3 Redevelopment of Park Facilities and Campground

Options for park redevelopment have been considered. Several of the existing buildings and facilities in the park are outdated, have deteriorated with age, or have been removed completely. Further the condition and layout of the campground and day use areas is not meeting current needs or projected demands.

It is recommended in the plan that upgrading and improvement of park facilities occur to the extent necessary to meet park operating standards and provide an adequate level of service to park users. The timing and final form of park redevelopment will be contingent on priorities for funding, and the preparation and approval of development and site plans.

1.1.4 Vegetation Management

Many forested areas of the park are exhibiting signs of "stand deterioration" a normal progression in the process of natural succession. In the camping and day use area, the large,

overmature and decadent poplar constitute a safety hazard, particularly during windy conditions.

In addition, the park's forests, particularly the spruce and balsam, have recently become heavily infested with spruce budworm and already many trees exhibit advanced defoliation. A spray program has been in place for 1986 and 1987, and continued control of the budworm by further aerial and/or ground spraying may be necessary.

To resolve these issues, the plan directs that a Vegetation Management Strategy be prepared.

2.0 PARK POLICIES

2.1 Classification

The Ministry of Natural Resources has classified Provincial Parks into the following categories: Wilderness, Recreation, Waterway, Natural Environment, Nature Reserve and Historical.

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is a Natural Environment class park. It contains representative and significant samples of earth and life science features typical of Site Region 3W. It also provides one of the few locations to access Lake Nipigon, in an area of outstanding topography and scenery, and offers numerous opportunities for recreational activities, particularly with introduction of the proposed backcountry trail system.

Located in an area rich in Indian history and legend, the park contains the remains of a historic fur tradepost and logging settlement with associated cemeteries thereby providing further opportunities for education and heritage appreciation.

2.2 Park Goal

The goal of Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is to protect a provincially significant landscape with associated representative plant, animal, geological and cultural features and to provide high quality recreation and heritage appreciation experiences.

2.3 Park Objectives

2.3.1 Protection

To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park protects an area representative of the natural landscapes typical of the Lake Nipigon region. Specifically, the park protects two major landscape units; diabase-controlled uplands, and clay mantled valleys and lowlands, representative of Site Region 3W (Hills, 1959).

Also protected are representative boreal vegetative communities, as well as plant species from the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Forests which are found at the northern limit of their range, (e.g. american hepatica, bulbet fern, red and white pine).

Representative Earth Science features being protected include:

- Late Precambrian Diabase (Logan) Sills
- Glacial deposits including the Jellicoe Spillway, and the Blacksand Beaches.

The Sand Point settlement site (circa 1890-1935) is protected within the park boundary and has historical significance pertaining to the fur trade, early logging and the history of settlement on Lake Nipigon.

Protection of park resources will be achieved through:

- Zoning to establish appropriate uses in areas being protected, and the implementation of protection oriented management policies described in this plan. The visitor services program will aid in the protection of park resources through its programs and messages.

2.3.2 Recreation

To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.

To meet this objective park management for recreation will have three thrusts:

- moderate-intensity car camping and day use;
- low-intensity backcountry day use and overnight camping; and;
- day use on Lake Nipigon.

The Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines targets are:

- Day-Use - To provide 14,000 recreation and tourism day use opportunities within Nipigon District by the year 2000.
- Car-Camping - To provide 43,800 recreation and tourism car camping opportunities in the District by the year 2000.
- Back Country Travel - To provide 52,000 wilderness and 5,100 non-wilderness backcountry opportunities by the year 2000.

If fully utilized the park has the capacity to provide 18,600 camper nights and 15,000 day use opportunities annually. Present use is well below these targets. Management direction will serve to promote and develop campground and day use facilities and visitor service programs that will provide park visitors with a high quality recreational experience. The level of development and supply of services will as a minimum, be sufficient to meet park operating standards. As use increases in response to management initiatives, park enhancement may proceed.

Lake Nipigon Park was according to past camper surveys, a "stop-over" rather than a "destination" park. Since self-serve registration was instituted statistics are less tenable, however, a trend toward extended (2 to 3 day) stays has been observed.

Day-use visitation has increased marginally during that period, most likely in response to better docking and launching facilities, recently developed.

An increasing emphasis of park management will be the provision of backcountry recreational opportunities in the park interior and access to Lake Nipigon. The park will continue to offer day-use recreation and facility-based camping.

2.3.3 Heritage Appreciation

To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

The visitor services program will provide a range of programs which encourage appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park environs.

The two primary themes for the park interpretive program are the natural history and ecology of the park area, and the history of man on Lake Nipigon. Opportunities for low-intensity recreation to be developed in the park will provide for individual appreciation and enjoyment of these various park values.

2.3.4 Tourism

To provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience a distinctive region of the province.

The continuing use and upgrading of day-use facilities and campgrounds, and the proposed addition of low-intensity recreational opportunities will enhance the appeal of the park to the passing traveller, as well as the destination visitor.

Tourism traffic to the park may serve to provide economic spin-offs to neighbouring communities such as Beardmore and perhaps to local outfitters.

Park marketing will serve to promote increased visitation. The Visitor Services program will provide activities to attract tourists.

2.4 Park Boundary

Lake Nipigon Park came into being as Blacksand Provincial Park in 1960, at which time 1,367 hectares were set aside under Ontario Regulation (O.Reg 204/60). In 1971, the area of the park was increased to include part of Lake Nipigon for a distance of 152 metres (500 feet) perpendicular to the high water mark. This area was put into regulation as O.Reg 114/71, which brought the park to its present size, 1,458 hectares, and boundary location, (see Figure 2).

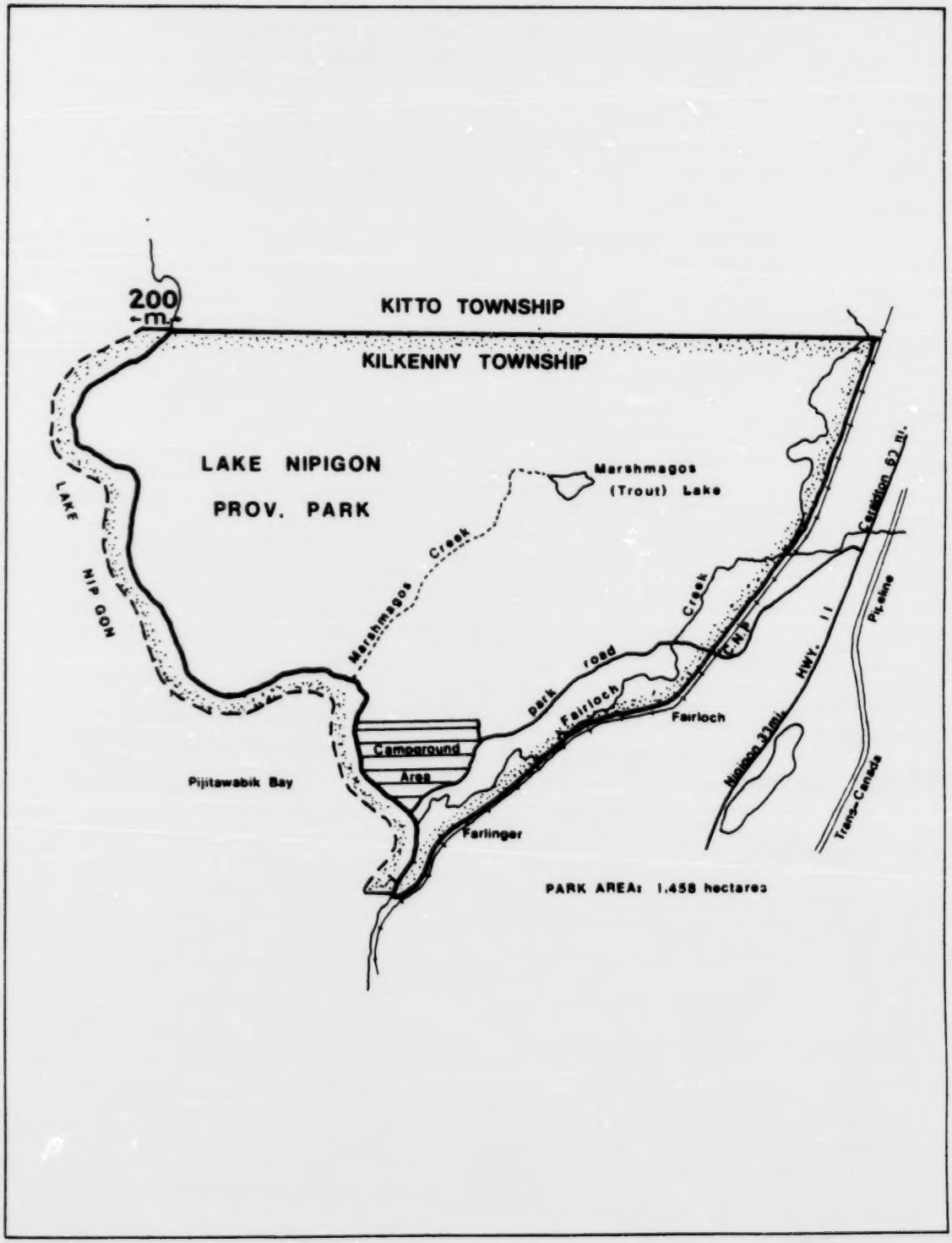
Ancestors of members of the Rocky Bay Band once occupied the Sand Point Indian community located within the park boundaries, and for this reason free entry for cemetery visitation and use of the day use facilities is granted to them, provided they register at the gatehouse upon entry and adhere to park regulations.

The Canadian National Railway right-of-way, which forms the eastern boundary of the park, is the only alienated land in or adjacent to it.

According to Provincial Park Policy (1978), a minimum area of 2,000 hectare is required for Natural Environment Parks to adequately represent landscapes and to provide sufficient area for the pursuit of low-intensity recreational activities. It has been determined that the present park area is satisfactory in its representation and no expansion of the park boundary is proposed. While the consolidation of landscape units through expansion to the north is desirable it would not increase representation of earth and life science features from site District 3. Further, the increased backcountry recreation opportunities afforded through expansion are not required to meet District targets. Park expansion will remain as an item to be considered in any future review of the park management plan.

Figure 2

Park Boundary



2.5 Park Zoning

The zoning configuration shown in this plan has been developed on the basis of best available information. More detailed information is required in order to identify specific earth or life science features or ecological associations of provincial significance, that may be zoned as Nature Reserves. This work will be carried out according to priority when funds permit, and an amendment to the management plan will be pursued if necessary.

2.5.1 Natural Environment Zone (1384 ha.)

The Natural Environment zone serves to provide site protection for the representative landscape units in the park.

Evidence of the Jellicoe Spillway occurs in the park area in the form of a wide flat wetland, and a portion of this geologically significant feature is protected in this zone.

It encompasses rugged, back-country landscapes and constitutes a majority of the park area. This zone serves to protect significant natural values and delineates the land area to be utilized in the development of high-quality, low intensity, recreational opportunities.

Development in this zone will be limited to wilderness campsites, hiking trails and route signs where required.

2.5.2 Development Zone (64 ha.)

The Development zone lies in the southern portion of the park and includes all facilities and improvements to the park area, such as buildings, campgrounds, roads and parking areas. The most recent additions to the park facilities include a new dock and boat launching ramp (1980) and a comfort station, with showers and laundry facilities, (1980).

Generally those areas of relatively high development capability are reflected in the area of established development. Thus, any future developments, which may include new buildings for visitor services, administration or staff accommodations will be located in this zone.

2.5.3 Historical Zones (10 ha.)

The two historical zones in the park serve to protect areas of historical significance relating to the Sand Point Settlement and Indian community.

Resource Management priorities will be to protect, maintain and interpret the cultural and historical values for heritage appreciation purposes. Trails with interpretive signs, providing day use hiking opportunities are permitted.

H-1 Sandpoint Settlement

The H-1 zone includes the settlement site and its two associated cemeteries.

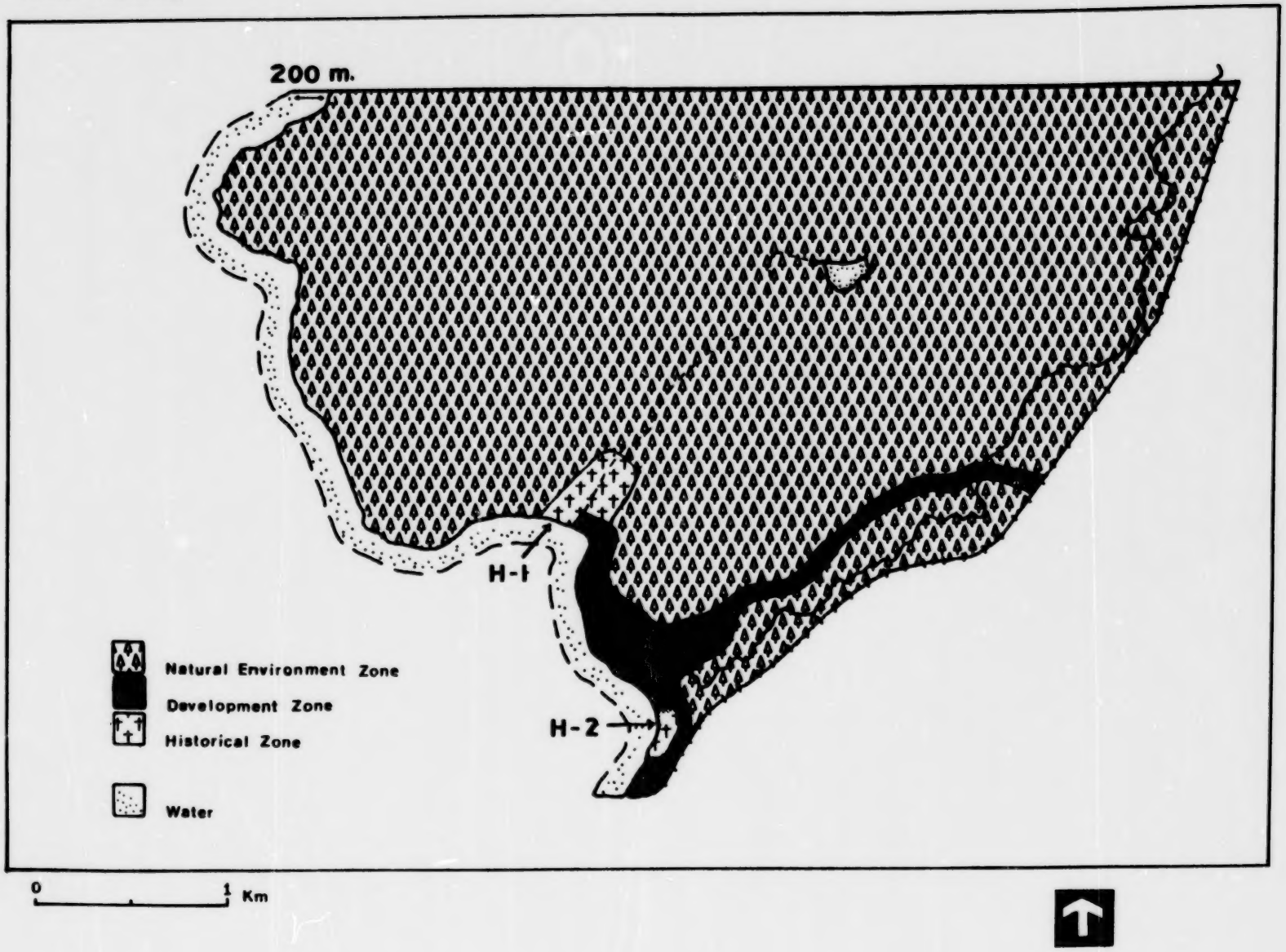
Established in 1890, this trading post consisted of a number of log buildings, including several houses, a store, school, church, pool room and ice house. Logging and fishing were vital to the existence of the community. The settlement declined and was eventually abandoned in the late 1930's.

H-2 Sawmill Site

The sawmill site was the economic mainstay of the settlement and at the peak of operation in

Figure 3

Park Zoning



the early 1900's, employed 180 men. It was destroyed by fire in 1925.

3.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park will be carried out in accordance with the park management plan.

3.1 Vegetation Management

The management of vegetation will emphasize the maintenance of an evolving natural succession. Overmature, diseased or decadent trees may be removed for safety reasons, particularly in the development zone. Because of heavy infestation, further control of spruce budworm by aerial or ground spraying may be necessary. There will be no commercial extraction of timber within the park.

A vegetation management strategy will be developed, incorporating the guidelines for Natural Environment class parks in the 'Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies'. The plan will address the hazards associated with the overmature poplar overstory, the lack of emergent species, control of insect infestations in the park rehabilitation campground, and the control of wildfires in the park.

3.2 Wildlife Management

Wildlife viewing will be encouraged in the park, an activity that will be further enhanced with the development of a back-country hiking trail.

As determined by provincial legislation, hunting will not be permitted in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. However, further to negotiation, hunting may be permitted by local native people within the Robinson-Superior Treaty Area, only during the park off-season and providing there is no threat to public safety whatsoever.

Trapline NG-108 encompasses Lake Nipigon Park, although the park constitutes only 5% of the total trapline area. Authority to trap on this trapline within the park boundary will only be permitted as long as it continues to be registered to a native person who is a member of the Rocky Bay Indian Band.

Nuisance animals may be controlled when necessary to protect human health and safety or the health of species outside the park. When necessary, animal control measures, ie. trapping or shooting, will be carried out by Ministry of Natural Resources staff or local native people.

3.3 Fisheries Management

Fishery resources of the park will continue to be managed in accordance with policies and regulations prevailing in the area. Sport fishing will be encouraged in all water bodies within the park. Fairloch and Marshmagos Creek both support brook trout populations. At one time, Marshmagos Lake also supported brook trout, but since the demise of the beaver dam in 1976 which maintained the pond's water level, it is not known whether any trout are still present.

The Lake Nipigon Fisheries Assessment Unit has proposed the enhancement of several speckled trout spawning areas on Lake Nipigon. One of the proposed areas is Fairloch Creek, which enters Lake Nipigon south of the comfort station area. At

this location stream bed improvements in the form of "up-welling bed" installations may be carried out. Some stocking of brook trout may also be undertaken on an experimental basis.

3.4 Water Resources Management

The management of the park's water resources will emphasize the maintenance of good water quality and sufficient flow for fisheries habitat and recreational purposes.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has recognized the importance of Fairloch and Marshmagos Creeks and the fisheries habitat they support. Watersheds contained in the park are protected through zoning policies.

The headwaters of Fairloch Creek lying outside the park boundary have been identified as an "Area of Concern" with regard to timber management planning. Park staff will work closely with timber staff to develop a management prescription for the area and monitor its implementation.

To ensure the maintenance of good water quality for park visitors, drinking and bathing water in the park will be monitered on a regular basis.

3.5 Landform Management

The management of land resources will emphasize the maintenance of natural landscapes. Mineral exploration and mining are not permitted.

Refuse and sewage generated by park users, will continue to be disposed of outside the park through local facilities.

3.6 Cultural Resource Management

The management of cultural resources will emphasize protection and heritage appreciation. Incompatible uses and recreational activities that detract from the historical values identified in the park will be prohibited.

The native cemetery, located to the north side of Marshmagos Creek, has in the past been maintained by the Rocky Bay Indian Reserve. Subject to the continuing support of the band council, maintenance of the native cemetery will be undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources. A sign identifying this cooperative venture will be posted on the existing Historical Trail in the vicinity of the cemetery.

The feasibility of site restoration in the Historical Zones will be investigated.

4.0 PARK OPERATIONS

A Park Operating Strategy will be prepared annually in keeping with the direction provided in this management plan. The Ministry of Natural Resources will encourage the involvement of volunteers in the provision of park visitor/interpretive services. As well, a native person may be employed to assist in interpretation of the native culture and history of the area.

In order to provide assistance in carrying out park operations, the feasibility of relocating the Junior Ranger Camp back in the park will be investigated.

4.1 Visitor Services

A seasonal visitor service program

with a strong communication and information component will be established in Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. A Visitor Services Strategy will be prepared and will emphasize the significant themes of the park using a combination of staff-led events and programmes, self-use facilities, and a combination of publications and interpretive signs.

4.1.1 Park Information

The 'Lake Nipigon Provincial Park' leaflet will be periodically reviewed and upgraded to accurately reflect the resources and recreational opportunities offered in the park.

Information will be prepared cautioning visitors regarding travel on Lake Nipigon with respect to severe weather conditions, suggested routes and exposed open water stretches on the lake.

Trail brochures will be developed for the existing interpretive trails. Information will also be prepared to coincide with the development of a back-country trail system in the natural environment zone.

Park literature and a sign identifying local tourist attractions will also inform visitors about the services and attractions outside the park. This will serve to enrich visitor's experience, generate local tourism and stimulate the local economy. Information will be provided to promote use of the other provincial parks in the region.

4.1.2 Resource Interpretation

Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is an important focal point, providing access to the unique resources of Lake Nipigon. The park interpretive program will convey the park story to visitors through a variety of themes:

· <u>Natural History and Ecology</u>

- the geology of the Nipigon Basin: the Nipigon Plate and its distinctive geological and geomorphological characteristics.
- the hydrology and ecology of Lake Nipigon, its shoreline and its islands.
- Boreal forest succession and ecology

· <u>History of Man on Lake Nipigon</u>

- the prehistory of human habitation on Lake Nipigon including Shield Archaic, Laurel, Blackduck, Selkirk, and Iroquoian cultures and their representation in the archaeological sites within the park
- the spiritual heritage of the local Ojibway and their accompanying colorful and exciting legends and mythical characters (including Norval Morriseau, Canada's foremost native artist, who was born at Sand Point settlement)
- the significance of Lake Nipigon drainage basin in fur trade history
- early logging, fishing and settlement history, especially as it pertains to Sand Point Trading Post
- the past and present native use of the land and the natural resources of the area

Interpretive programs will promote such activities as hiking, fishing, boating and canoeing, highlighting the access to Lake Nipigon afforded by the Park.

4.1.3 Recreation Skills

To complement the development of a backcountry trail system, a park map will also be developed,

providing information on minimum impact camping practices to enhance visitor skills and improved use and enjoyment of the park.

4.2 Recreation Management

Detailed guidelines and procedures for the management and operations of park activities and facilities will be incorporated in the Park Operating Strategy.

4.3 Marketing

Upon completion of the North Central Region Marketing Strategy an individual marketing strategy will be prepared for Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. This strategy will be reviewed annually and revised as required.

This marketing strategy will indicate how we will make the public aware of what the park has to offer, in terms of facilities and the types of recreational experiences available.

One objective will be to encourage "destination visits" to the park, by emphasizing the opportunities afforded by Lake Nipigon and the facilities provided in the park. The creation of the backcountry trail system should further contribute to this end.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will have discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications regarding the posting of more highway signs advertising the park, eg. at the Highway 11/17 intersection.

In addition, having special "family days" in the park for the tourists and residents of local communities would further promote park use. These program days could be held on holiday weekends with a picnic (e.g. fish fry or BBQ), childrens games and evening campfire program possibly included. In addition special promotion of a similar nature could be offered to employees of local major companies (e.g. Domtar), an idea which was carried out successfully in Lake Superior Park for Algoma Steel employees.

The reintroduction of the park interpretive program along with the development of a new visitor services facility should contribute to increasing visitation trends. Visitor services can play a vital role in marketing, since the information component is often the means by which publicity is achieved.

4.4 Research

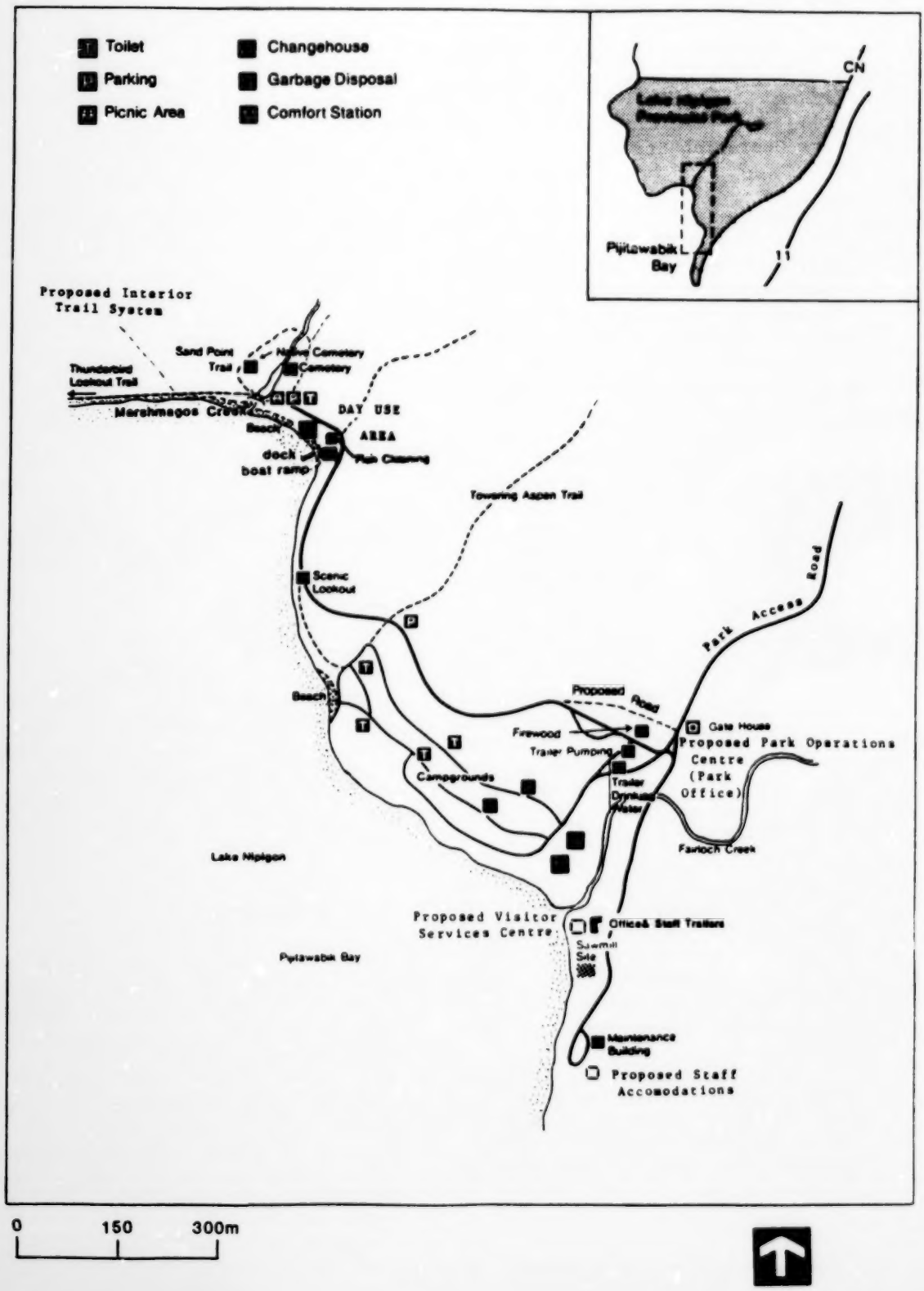
Research which contributes to the knowledge of the natural and cultural values and recreation management of the Park will be encouraged. All research will require approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources and must be conducted in accordance with policy direction. Appropriate research topics include earth and life science studies, site planning for trail location and further investigation of archeological sites in the park.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT

Figure 4 depicts the location of proposed and existing park facilities. The location, design and materials of all facilities constructed within the park will, as fully as possible, reflect the character of the park. All development will be carried out in accordance with approved site plans and development strategies.

Figure 4

Park Facilities (Existing and Proposed)



New facilities will be developed through work program planning or special funding initiatives. Once constructed new facilities will be managed in accordance with the Park Operating Strategy. The construction of these new facilities will depend on Ministry of Natural Resources funding allocations.

The exact location of proposed facilities will be confirmed through site planning, including analysis of alternative sites and design layouts.

5.1 Maintenance Centre

A new maintenance facility will be constructed in the park. This facility is necessary since a safe and secure workplace as well as equipment storage have been deemed a priority.

Maintenance programs, have to date, operated out of an old cookery building that was once used in conjunction with the Junior Ranger program. This building is considered unsafe and inadequate for the needs of the maintenance program. A storage shed will also be constructed for flammable liquids used in the park. New staff accommodation facilities will be located adjacent to this centre for security purposes.

5.2 Staff Accommodation Facility

Future increases in park staff for security, visitor services and interior trail maintenance will likely exceed the accommodation capacity of the existing trailer.

The age and deteriorating state of the trailer unit may necessitate construction of the new facility before all staffing requirements are fulfilled. These accommodations will be located at the south end of the park, adjacent to the new maintenance centre for security purposes.

The size and design of the building will be sufficient to accommodate regular park staff, work crews, and Junior Ranger program staff, if camp relocation occurs.

5.3 Campground Redevelopment

Present campground facilities were not constructed to meet current design specifications; some roads are substandard (eg. road to day use area), and many campsites are not spacious enough to accomodate the new larger trailers and recreational vehicles. Campsite electrical service has been deemed a priority.

A redevelopment plan will be prepared for the existing campground to upgrade the campsites and roads. Also, approximately 20 campsites will be upgraded to provide electrical service. The redevelopment will enhance the quality of the car campground experience and improve vehicular circulation. Campsites will be redeveloped on a year-to-year basis in order to reduce the disruption to park visitors.

5.4 Park Operations Centre

A new facility will be constructed to incorporate visitor orientation, administration and security programs for the park. This Operations Centre will be located at the entrance to the park adjacent to the present gatehouse, and will be designed to meet park program needs. This location affords the best control over all activities taking place in the park.

The self-serve fee system will remain in operation until such time as visitation levels warrant the need for gatehouse staff.

With the development of a back-country trail system, there will be a need for an expanded user orientation program. The level of service required for this program and the interpretive program will increase operating space requirements.

Pending funding, an expanded security program will be incorporated in the park operations. The location of the Park Operations Centre is recognized as the best location for security operations in the Park. Administrative personnel located in this facility will be responsible for the visitor orientation until such time as visitation warrants the need for gatehouse staff.

5.5 Visitor Services Facility

A visitor services facility will be constructed in the development zone. The primary role of this facility will be program presentation of the interpretive themes for the park. According to the Regional Visitor Services Plan, this facility and its staff could provide additional support to the visitor services program to be developed for Wabakimi Provincial Park. The facility will be designed and constructed according to program needs and will contain an activity area, office and work space for visitor services staff.

5.6 Day Use Facilities

Due to their deteriorated state, the existing change house and fish cleaning hut will be removed as soon as possible and new facilities constructed. Parking lots will be upgraded and better defined to enable a more orderly use of day-use facilities.

New facilities such as more sheltered and secure docking, a picnic shelter and childrens playground may be considered, but these developments are highly dependent on demonstrated demand and funding availability.

5.7 Interior Trails

An interior hiking trail system will be developed in the Natural Environment Zone. This trail system will also incorporate design criteria for use as cross-country ski trails. A trail development strategy will be prepared to guide this development, incorporating site planning with resource protection, recreation management and resource interpretation components.

6.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

6.1 Plan Implementation

Implementation of this Management Plan, will involve resource management, operations and site planning, visitor services, and facility development. Implementation of this plan is contingent upon funding approval through work planning and other funding sources.

6.1.1 Implementation Strategies

Implementation of this Management Plan will involve the preparation of operating, visitor service, vegetation management, trail development and marketing strategies. The Park Operating Strategy will be prepared to provide specific guidelines on how park

operations are to be carried out on a day-to-day basis. The other park strategies will indicate how management direction contained in this plan is to be put into effect or carried out on the ground.

6.1.2 Visitor Services Program

The initiation of this program will also be dependent upon the availability of office space and appropriate facilities. Initially, these requirements can be met through the Parks Operations Centre, but as the program expands, a visitor services facility will be required.

6.1.3 Park Redevelopment Priorities

Priorities for redevelopment of park facilities have been determined through an examination of the following: existing and future program needs, present and projected levels of visitation, and the structural condition of present park facilities. Proposed developments have been discussed in Section 5.0 and are ranked here in order of priority:

- Day-use Facilities
- Staff Accommodations
- Maintenance Centre
- Campground Redevelopment
- Park Operations Centre
- Interior Trail Systems
- Visitor Services Facility

6.2 Plan Review and Amendment

The Lake Nipigon Provincial Park Management Plan will be reviewed as warranted over the 20 year timeframe. As a minimum requirement, the plan will be reviewed ten years after approval.

Review of this plan may become necessary from time to time in order to ensure the continuing relevance of the plan's content. This need may arise in the face of changing circumstances where park objectives and management policies are no longer appropriate. It may also be neccessitated by a proposal which represents a significant departure from the original direction and intent of the plan, or in the event that, during its term, the plan is rendered obsolete.

7.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The release of the preliminary management plan provides the first formal opportunity for public involvement in the planning process. To date public consultation has consisted of a review of public input received when the Nipigon District Land Use Guidelines were prepared. Consideration of comments made by park users over the years, and informal contacts with interested persons at the park and the District Office.

As well, the Ministry representatives have met with Band Chiefs, in order to address issues related to park use by native persons.

8.0 REFERENCES

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